

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated 20 March 2006. Responsive to that Office Action, Claims 3 – 4, 6 and 9 – 10 are now cancelled, new Independent Claim 13 has been added and Claims 1 and 5 are amended for further prosecution with the other pending claims. With such addition and amendment of claims, there is a further clarification of the pending claims' recitations.


In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 – 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Song et al. reference. The Examiner also rejected Claims 1, 3, 5 – 9 and 11 – 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ogawa et al. The Examiner, however, merely objected to Claims 4 and 10 for being dependent upon rejected base claims, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, the subject matter of Claims 3 and 4 are now incorporated into independent Claim 1, with Claims 3 and 4 being cancelled. Additionally, the subject matter of Claims 9 and 10 is now incorporated into independent Claim 5, with Claims 9 and 10 being cancelled. Such amendment of claims is made in the interest of expedited prosecution of this case, given the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Such amendment of claims is made, moreover, without addressing the merits of the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Additionally, new Independent Claim 13 has been added containing allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner. As such, Claim 13 is believed to be in allowable form.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the subject Patent Application has now been placed fully in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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